



## Labor and Workforce Development

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## Businesses to Pay Lower Assessment Rate to State on Workers' Compensation Insurance

**BOSTON, MA** - For the third consecutive year, the Baker-Polito Administration reduced the assessment rate employers pay to the state on workers' compensation insurance policies.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, employers will pay an assessment of 4.56 percent on their total insurance premium, which is an 18.57 percent decrease from the previous rate of 5.6 percent. The new rate will go into effect July 1, 2017.

The Department of Industrial Accidents, an agency within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, administers the workers' compensation insurance system, and annually establishes assessment rates. During FY '17, the Baker-Polito Administration reduced the rate from 5.75 to 5.6 percent, and from 5.8 to 5.75 percent in the previous fiscal year.

"The Baker-Polito Administration is pleased this employer assessment will be lowered for a third consecutive year," said Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Ronald L. Walker, II, "easing the financial burden on employers while maintaining sufficient resources to cover the needs of those injured on the job."

The Massachusetts Workers' Compensation system is in place to make sure workers are protected by insurance if they are injured on the job or develop a work-related illness.

Under this system, all employers in Massachusetts are required by state law, Massachusetts General Laws Ch. 152, Sec. 25A, to carry workers' compensation insurance covering their employees. The insurance pays for any reasonable and necessary medical treatment for a job-related injury or illness; pays compensation for lost wages after the first five calendar days of full or partial disability; and in some cases provides retraining for employees who qualify.

DIA is funded through assessments on workers' compensation policies, and self-insurance programs for employers operating in Massachusetts. In addition, DIA collects statutory fines and fees.

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